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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,129	07/06/2001	William W. Jacobsen	022182-56	6519

7590

01/25/2002

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EXAMINER

RAJGURU, UMAKANT K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T.D-3

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) ~~13-20~~ 13-19 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) ~~13-20~~ 13-19 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 13-19 are under examination.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 13-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georlette et al (USP 4380522) in view of Bergquist et al (USP 5194461).

*UK* Georlette discloses a process for manufacture of articles <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~ compositions containing 30-70% <sup>polyolefin and 30-70% by weight of</sup> ~~by weight of~~ cellulosic fibers (abstract). Cellulosic fibers are ligno-cellulosic materials, preferably particles of 0.1 to 3.0 mm size (col 4, lines 7-12).

Suitable polyolefins are polyethylene, polypropylene and few other (col 2, lines 49-54). Polyolefins are modified by polar monomers (col. 2, line 66 to col. 3, line 18), such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic anhydride.

Georlette does not disclose length of at least 15 mm of cellulosic fibers.

Bergquist discloses a composite comprised of recycled high density polyethylene and fibrous materials. Fibrous materials are usually of 0.5 inch and may be several inches in length (col. 2, lines 42-52).

Therefore it would have been obvious to use the fibers of length up to few inches in the composition of Georlette because use of such fibers will reduce cost of production of composition and articles therefrom and still maintain quality of the articles.

4. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georlette (USP 43805222) in view of Bergquist et al (USP 5194461) as applied to claims 13 & 16 above, and further in view of Coates et al (USP 5932357).

Disclosures of Georlette and Bergquist are presented in short earlier. They together fail to mention maleic anhydride graft polypropylene and polypropylene as ingredients of the (claimed) composition.

Coates discloses painted plastic articles comprising a polypropylene substrate coated with coating of polyamide or polyester. A compatibilizer such as maleic anhydride <sup>grafted</sup> polypropylene is used (abstract).


Therefore it would have been obvious to use, in the composition of Georlette maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene as a coupling agent when polypropylene is used as the thermoplastic, in order to enhance adhesion of polypropylene and cellulosic fibers.


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54. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to U. K. Rajguru whose telephone number is (703) 308-3224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck, can be reached on (703) 308-2462. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

  
U.K. Rajguru/om  
January 17, 2002

  
James J. Seidleck  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700